

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-1971V

UNPUBLISHED

KEELY KNUDSEN,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: March 15, 2022

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for  
Petitioner.*

*Althea Walker Davis, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES**<sup>1</sup>

On December 27, 2018, Keely Knudsen filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine she received on December 13, 2017. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On August 23, 2021, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On March 15, 2022, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$55,561.04, representing \$55,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$561.04 for unreimbursable out-of-

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

pocket expenses. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$55,561.04 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

KEELY KNUDSEN,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	No. 18-1971V
	)	Chief Special Master
v.	)	Brian H. Corcoran
	)	SPU
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On December 27, 2018, Keely Knudsen (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation (“Petition”) under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), as amended, alleging that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as the result of an influenza vaccination she received in her right deltoid on December 13, 2017. On August 23, 2021, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued his Findings of Fact and Ruling on Entitlement, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for her right shoulder SIRVA injury. ECF No. 36.

**I. Items of Compensation**

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$55,561.04. The award is comprised of \$55,000.00 for petitioner’s pain and suffering and \$561.04 for past unreimbursable out-of-pocket vaccine-related expenses. This represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The parties have no objection to the amount of the proffered award of damages. Assuming the Chief Special Master issues a damages decision in conformity with this proffer, the parties waive

**II. Form of the Award**

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$55,561.04**, in the form of a check made payable to petitioner.<sup>2</sup>

Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Torts Branch, Civil Division

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DATED: March 15, 2022

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their right to seek review of such damages decision. However, respondent reserves his right, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(e), to seek review of the Chief Special Master’s August 23, 2021 Findings of Fact and Ruling on Entitlement.

<sup>2</sup> Should petitioner die prior to the entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.